

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW

SUBJECT: FRG REACTION TO GENSCHER'S WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: STATE 058173

1. FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL TOLD ME YESTERDAY HOW PLEASED FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WAS WITH THE COURTESIES EXTENDED TO HIM BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY DURING HIS MARCH 13-14 VISIT TO WASHINGTON. VAN WELL SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPRESSION DERIVED BY THE FRG FROM THE VISIT WAS THE DESIRE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO COOPERATE AND TO CONSIDER GERMAN OPINIONS. VAN WELL PRAISED THE ADMINISTRATION'S SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO DEVELOPING POSITIONS AND SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE FRG TO HAVE MADE AN INPUT WHILE U.S. POSITIONS WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. VAN WELL SAID HE THOUGHT GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS COULD NOW DEVELOP AND THAT THE TIMING OF THE VISIT HAD BEEN EXCELLENT FROM THE FRG'S STANDPOINT.

2. NON-PROLIFERATION. ACCORDING TO VAN WELL, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON NON-PROLIFERATION WAS THE "CLEANSING EFFECT" AND GENERAL PURGING OF THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE SIDES. VAN WELL THOUGHT THAT IN
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OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ADOPT A NON-DISCRIMINATORY APPROACH. VAN WELL BELIEVED THE DISCUSSIONS HAD ESTABLISHED INDICATIONS OF FORWARD MOVEMENT. HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER HOW BRAZIL AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLIERS' GROUP.

3. VAN WELL NOTED THAT GENSCHER HAD ASKED THE U.S. SIDE EXPLICITLY WHAT WE CONSIDERED TO BE THE CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS CRITICAL POINT WAS THE ACTUAL TRANSFER OF HARDWARE. HE THOUGHT THE DELIVERY OF BLUEPRINTS ALONE TO THE BRAZILIANS DID NOT CONSTITUTE THE CRITICAL MOMENT. I EMPHASIZED STRONGLY TO VAN WELL THE U.S. HOPE THAT THE FRG WOULD TAKE NO DECISION ON TRANSFERRING THE BLUEPRINTS UNTIL WE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FURTHER. I INFORMED HIM FURTHER THAT THE EMBASSY WAS SEEKING ADDITIONAL, MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT DELIVERY OF THE BLUEPRINTS TO THE BRAZILIANS WOULD SIGNIFY IN TECHNOLOGICAL TERMS.

4. TANK DEAL/AWACS. VAN WELL, IN COMMENTING ON THE LEOPARD 2/XM-1 TANK HARMONIZATION PROBLEM, REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK ABOUT THE GUN IN WHICH HE SAID THE U.S. "WILL LIVE UP TO OUR PART OF THE BARGAIN." VAN WELL SAID THE FRG DID NOT WANT TO ESTABLISH LINKAGES BETWEEN THE TANK PROGRAM AND AWACS, AND THAT HAD NOT BEEN THE FRG'S INTENTION. THE PROBLEM WAS, VAN WELL CONTINUED, THAT THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING BOTH SYSTEMS AT THE SAME TIME, IMPLYING THAT IT WAS THIS SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HAD LED TO THE LINKAGE THREAT. VAN WELL SAID BOTH THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN SIDES HAD AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDIZATION AS A DEMONSTRATION OF ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP.

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